

GRACE GIVING

2 Cor. 8:1,2

2 Cor 8:1 *Moreover: not only what just told you but ...*

We do you to wit: We tell you further. We have more to tell you.

Churches of Macedonia: churches north of the Isthmus of Corinth since 146 BC Grace: energizing power and supernatural desire to do will of God.

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| Can't be saved without it | Eph.2:8,9 |
| Can't have victory over sin without it | Rom.5:20 |
| Can't have needs met without it | Heb.4:16 |
| Can't have power of God without it | Acts 4:33 |
| Can't be effective in ministry... | 1 Cor.15:9,10 |

Bestowed: Presented, granted, awarded,

James 4:6 Proud Christians & proud churches not known for this ministry and consequently do not experience power of God.

1. *Great trial of affliction:* severe troubles and tough times. Much opposition and persecution (Acts 16:11-17:15).

2. *Abundance of their joy:* surplus, overflowing, plentiful, much left over Joy: condition of supreme well-being (Roget) Comes from within Happiness is based on the external.

3. *Deep poverty:* Extremely poor; beggary; indigent

In the midst of these circumstances they had overflowed, overreached, gone way beyond any expectation in their generous giving to others.

The tithe (58 verses/11 in N.T.)

Little to do with NT giving

Little to do with Law. Tithing was practiced before Law given.

Gen.14:18 *Melchizedek, paid tithes*

Gen.28:22 *Jacob gave tenth*

Heb 7:2,6

Jesus commended Pharisees for doing one thing right.

Luke 11:42 You were doing right in tithing but don't leave out or pass over judgment and the love of God.

Tithing only bare minimum of giving to God.

Giving not estimated in terms of quantity but of sacrifice.

Hughes: the most genuine liberality is frequently displayed by those who have least to give.

Generally, the greatest givers are those who have the least to give while the stingiest givers are usually the wealthiest. Mark 12:41-44

Hughes: "In the case of the members of the Macedonian churches, the fires of affliction and poverty had uncovered and refined the precious ore of joy and generosity."